Supply of Sugarcane to Malaprabha Co-operative Sugar Factory Limited

127. Sri N. B. SIRDESAI (Khanapur).—

Will the Minister for Industries and Parliamentary Affairs be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether a joint meeting of sugar cane growers in Khanapur Taluk and the management of Malaprabha Co-operative Sugar Fatory Limited, M. K. Hubli (Belgaum) was held in the meeting hall of the Deputy Commissioner, Belgaum under his chairmanship recently for discussing the grievances of the sugarcane growers ;

(*b*) whether Chairman and the Directors of the factory including the Managing Director had given the assurance to the growers stating that the whole crop of sugarcane in Khanapur Taluk is required by the factory and that they will make arrangements for cutting, transporting and purchasing the whole crop of the growers at the maturity stage without any delay ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that all the representatives of the sugarcane growers had contended to the management and to the Deputy Commissioner that there is a surplus cane crop and it is beyond the capacity of the factory to transport and crush the whole sugarcane crop before the close of the crushing season of the factory and that they would put the growers to inconvenience and heavy loss ;

(*d*) whether under the existing rules the factory is required to enter into an agreement with growers and reserve only the required quantity of sugarcane before the commencement of the crushing season, and allow the growers to do away with their rest of the crop as they prefer ;

(*e*) whether Government have received any representations from the growers in the matter and whether Government intend to take any action to remove the difficulties of the growers ?

Sri S. M. KRISHNA (Minister for Industries and Parliamentary Affairs).—

(*a*) Yes on 18 9-1974.

(*b*) The representatives of the management of the sugar factory assured the growers during the meeting that the factory would be able to lift all the sugarcane from the reserved villages of Khanapur Taluk and wherever the plots were inaccessible by road and the factory was unable to lift sugarcane, the growers would be issued no objection certificate for making jaggery.

(*c*) Yes, a few of the representatives of the sugarcane growers, expressed such apprehension, but the representatives of the factory did not agree with it.

(*d*) As per clauses 4 and 5 of the Karnataka sugarcane (Regulation of Distribution) order issued for each factory it is mandatory on the part of all the growers in the reserved area to enter into agreement with the factory to supply 95 per cent of the sugarcane grown by them. Once such an order is issued, only the prescribed licensing authority can permit the growers in the reserved area to use the cane for any other purpose.

(*e*) The Government has received some representations from sugarcane growers of the area. On enquiry it was found that the M. K. Hubli factory did have surplus cane within its area of operation in the beginning of the crushing season. However, before the reservation notification for the factory could issue, some quantity of cane was removed to other sugar factories in the area The M. K. Hubli factory has represented that they would be able to crush all the available cane in the area and they were prepared to enter into agreements with the growers to purchase their cane. In view of these facts the growers in the area are not likely to face any difficulty. However applications for installing sugarcane crushers in the area would also be considered on merits.

Sri N. B. SIRDESAI.—May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that in the presence of the Deputy Commissioner, the representatives of the Management of the Sugar Factory have given orgal assurance that they would lift all the sugarcane raised in Khanapur Taluks ? Is it not a fact that they have informed the growers by the end of November 1974 their inability to do so ?

† **Sri S. M. KRISHNA.**—Yes.

Sri N. B. SIRDESAI.—Whether the Government is aware of the fact that till this day the Management has not kept up their word or promise ?

Sri S. M. KRISHNA.—The Director of the Sugar Factory took another meeting with the Deputy Commissioner, Belgaum on 10-1-1975 wherein the Factory authorities seems to have represented to him that about a lakh of tonnes of sugarcane from the reserved area has already been exported out of the reserved area. That is the latest information we have on this.

Sri N. B. SIRDESAI.—Is it not mandatory on the part of the Sugarcane Factory *i.e.*, purchaser, according to Clauses 4 and 5 of the Karnataka Sugarcane (Regulation of Distribution) Order to purchase 95 per cent of the sugarcane as agreed upon by the factory grown by them ? Is it mandatory on the part of the growers to supply to the factory ?

Sri S. M. KRISHNA.—Yes. If there is any agreement between the canegrowers and the Factory, then, it is mandatory.

Sri P. A. PAWASHE.—What is the present crushing capacity and the total sugarcane area reserved for this factory in Belgaum. Khanapur and Bailhongal taluks ?

Sri S. M. KRISHNA.—The present crushing capacity of the factory is 1250 tonnes. We have recommended to Government to increase the capacity to 3,500 tonnes. The total sugarcane area allotted for the sugar factory is 5164 hecters.

Sri N. B. SIRDESAI.—May I know Sir, what action the Government has taken to safegaurd the interest of the growers in order to save them from the monetary loss ?

Sri S. M. KRISHNA.—The Government thinks that it is only transitory difficulty. When the Sugarcane Factory takes up the expansion and when they would be in a position to crush about 3500 tonnes in a day, then, much of the difficulties are likely to be taken care of.

Secondly, if there is any surplus sugarcane in that area, the sugarcane growers could always approach the Government to instal sugarcane crushers so that they could make jaggery, out of the sugarcane.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK.—Has it come to the notice of the Government that in the year 1974, the M. K. Hubli Factory had purchased the sugarcane from the Khanapur Taluka with the result the agriculturists have incurred heavy loss ?

Sri S. M. KRISHNA.—I am hot aware of any such dfficulty but in order to take care of such difficulties, the Sugarcane Directorate has been constituted in our State and I am sure any such complaints can be reffered to the Directorate of Sugar and they will enquire into it.

Sri N. B. SIRDESAI.—In which case, it is a very serious omission on the part of the Sugarcane Factory.

Business Complex Centre at Bangalore

169 Sri K. R. SRINIVASULU NAYUDU (Shanthinagar).—

Will the Minister for Law and Municipal Administration be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether Government is aware of the necessity of opening a modern business complex centre at Bangalore considering the importance of City as International Tourist and Industrial Centre :

(*b*) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated and plans finalised ?

Sri D. K. NAIKAR (Minister for Law and Municipal Administration).—

(*a*) Yes.